

Desert Rifles

Desert Rifles Issue 12

July 25, 2003

Iraqis Given Freedom of Speech

Story and Photos by Cpl. Joe Niesen

HILLA, Iraq-On Monday, soldiers from Coalition Forces, civilian workers from the Iraqi Media Network and Iraqi reporters from both before and after the war gathered to discuss the Coalition's involvement in the formation of an Iraqi free press.



IMN-An Iraqi reporter uses his freedom of press to document the proceedings at the conference in Iraq.

"I want you to know that we will hold no secrets here, we genuinely wish to help the people of Iraq," said Colonel Steven Bruce in his introduction. He added that he wanted and encouraged the reporters in attendance to take as many photos and to ask as many questions as they wanted of the entire proceedings.

The meeting began after a short delay while they waited for all of the attendees to arrive. Bruce wanted to ensure that

and breaks.

The main focus of the meeting was to establish who the players were in Iraq's media circles. Topics ranged from the discussion of radio and television broadcast coverage areas to newspaper printing capabilities and the types of presses available to those in Iraq.

Representatives from the Iraqi Media Network fielded questions about the support they were willing to provide while assuring the audience that IMN would be "by Iraqi's, for Iraqi's," according to Mr. John Sandrock, the civilian in charge of overseeing the construction of IMN.

The fact that the ultimate goal of the Coalition Forces, with regard to the media, was to create a truly free press within Iraq.

"Media will not be affiliated with any government, party, group or religion. Iraqi's are not of one mind, and as a result, must try and cover objectively for the people to place worth in it," said Sandrock.

The meeting concluded with a roundtable discussion of the issues addressed during the conference. Many of the Iraqi reporters asked questions concerning the facilities in their area and were concerned that they might be left out of the loop once major funding began.

Their fears were laid to rest as the Iraqi civilians of IMN discussed future plans for the region how to facilitate such issues as the training of reporters and the creation of a press agency within the country.

"Instead of Saddam's propaganda machine, this will be the means of creating a truly free press within Iraq," said Bruce.

In This Issue...

Freedom of speech

What soldiers are doing in their rare moments of rest

British troops give soldiers at Al Asad a lesson in counter terrorism Regimental Round Up

World News

everyone who wanted to attend the conference was there and had been personally greeted. The entire atmosphere of the event was one of openness with the military and civilian presenters encouraging those in attendance to speak with them both during the conference



IMN-Members from military and civilian media centers in Iraq and the U.S. answer questions from those in attendance.

Dealing With A Different Kind of Threat

**Story and Photos by Spc Emily Donaghy
350th MPAD**

AL ASAD, Iraq-Members of the British

tions.

Capt. Mark Harris, part of the OPTAG team explained, "What we are aiming to do here, is train six to seven hundred people, hopefully they'll go back and train the rest of their units."

OPTAG taught two different classes while in Al Asad before continuing to their next stop in Mosul, Iraq.

The courses taught were determined by the geographical

Davison, an Engineer Search Advisor with OPTAG.

The two classes are taught simultaneously over a two day period.

"It's brought my knowledge up to speed on how easily terrorists can make explosives, so now when I'm on patrol, I'll know what to look for. I can pass this down to my soldiers," said Sgt. Steven Anaya, 80th Air Defense Artillery 3d ACR.

The OPTAG instructors attempted to make the class interactive by asking if anyone had any knowledge or experiences they would like to talk about. Soldiers from an EOD unit made search sketches and briefly covered how to search for



DETAIL--C/SGT Andy Jones, an instructor for OPTAG, tells soldiers in the first class, "Clearing a building must be done with a sense of urgency."

Army stopped at Al Asad on their way through Iraq to give classes on Anti-terrorism. Fourteen British soldiers from the Operation Training Advisory Group (OPTAG) taught members of the U.S. Army stationed at Al Asad.

OPTAG is based in the southern U.K., this particular group is from Folkestone, England. These soldiers don't train for, or teach conventional warfare tactics, they've trained and prepared for the acts of terrorism that come after the battles.

These men bring with them experience and knowledge acquired from their time served in Northern Ireland and the Balkans where similar tactics have been used in the past.

The British OPTAG team has been on Peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan, Macedonia, China, Jamaica, Kosovo, Nepal and Kashmir, and was in Iraq to share with the troops the tactics that they had successfully employed in those areas.

This is the third year OPTAG has been teaching. They have trained over 36,000 soldiers this year alone. Their primary mission is Peacekeeping and passing on to Coalition Forces the British Army's tactics, technology and procedures employed on internal security and peacekeeping opera-

location and actions taking place in the area. Although the classes were closely related, the differences were clear. The first class dealt with patrols, planning, and reaction under different types of fire. The class focused on the physical planning of warfare such as vehicle checkpoints, and security procedures.

"When conducting random vehicle searches, we may strike lucky and get the terrorist who struck the night before," said Colour Sergeant Kenny Faloan of OPTAG.

The other class was more focused on heightening personal awareness when dealing with suicide bombers and knowing what materials are commonly used in bomb making.

"Once you learn what these parts are and how a bomb can be made, you can recognize a potential danger," says Staff Sgt.



SECURITY--soldiers move into position for a vehicle checkpoint drill as C/SGT Kenny Faloan explains the procedure to the class.

EOD.

After all the lessons had been covered, Faloan's class played a review game by power point promising to reward the winner with a "special" DVD.

"I just figured we're going to be here for awhile, it might come in handy later down the road. Everything was excellent, the instructors and subject matter. We also got a disk with all the information from class for our units. I learned to be more observant. People around here can get complacent, stagnate. I learned that, to some extent, the war is still going on," said Pfc. Ray Chriswell, RHHT 2/3 3d ACR DFAC.

3d ACR Weekly Round up

**By Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls, Jr.
Special Correspondent to the Gazette**

AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq - The 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment returned to its typical armored cavalry role this week, carrying out zone reconnaissance, maneuvering forces on the ground and clearing the land of enemy forces in the latest adjustment to the ever-changing tactics of anti-coalition forces in this guerilla war.

The 3d ACR squadrons focused on finding enemy forces and engaging the enemy there during the current phase of combat operations - Operation Iron Grip.

"It's nice to go back to more of a cavalry type mission," Capt. Mike Davis, Regimental battle captain said.

The Regiment's troopers have been forced to fill a military police or infantry role since they arrived in country in early May, reluctantly leaving the lifeblood of their armored vehicles to execute raids, man traffic control points, run presence patrols and make security check runs.

The 3rd ACR was the first unit to execute a counter battery mission when it fired a retaliatory artillery strike in answer to a mortar attack it received since the official cessation of combat operations, Davis said. The mortar attack the Regiment retaliated against occurred at Rifles Base in Ar Ramadi earlier this month.

Returning to its conventional armored cavalry role has paid some dividends, Davis said, at least at Rifles Base, as there have been no attacks in the past five or six days here.

The rest of the Al Anbar province - 3d ACR's area of responsibility - continues to be a murky, frustrating challenge, though. Attacks are a daily occurrence and Anti-Coalition Forces are changing their tactics, using command-detonated devices in attacks rather than a direct fire confrontation.

"They're changing tactics because they can't win in a direct fire fight with us," Davis said, citing a recent firefight that resulted in two Anti-Coalition attackers being killed.

On the civil affairs front, it's frustrating because efforts to improve the country's infrastructure routinely get thwarted by

Anti-Coalition Forces.

"It's hard doing stabilization and security operations while combat operations are going on," said Maj. Edward McFadden, the direct support detachment commander for the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion (Abilene, Texas). "We never had to do that in Bosnia."

Winning public opinion is also difficult because the Iraqi people have never experienced freedom so they don't know what they're missing. Moreover, they are impatient with the pace of improvements in the country's infrastructure, such as consistent electrical power, running water, paying jobs and medical care.

"An Iraqi citizen recently complained 'If this were America, these improvements would happen right away,'" said Capt. Edward Palacios, a civil affairs officer in 490th CA Bn. "Another one of our civil affairs officers reminded the gentlemen that it took the United States more than 200 years to get to that point."

McFadden and Palacios agreed that the majority of Iraqi citizens don't have anything against the United States, but simply want their lives to return to normal. Normalcy, however, is a tricky quality to come by when opposition forces are continually sabotaging your hard-fought efforts. For example, the mayor of Haditha, Mr. Nyal, and his son, Akchmed, were murdered on July 16. While it's not clear whether the assassination was a statement against Coalition Forces or due to tribal disputes, such incidents make it harder for Iraqi citizens to step forward and actively participate in building a democracy.

Another factor occurred during the week, that also makes progress more difficult in Al Anbar and throughout Iraq is sensationalism of news events. Special Forces soldiers shot two Iraqi would-be attackers transporting an improvised explosive device on a motorcycle this past week. Al Jazeera TV covered the incident showing graphic images of the dead men lying in the street and charging the U.S. for executing the men. An Iraqi interpreter, who was with the Special Forces soldiers, had a totally different account,

the soldiers' insis

tence that they shot the men in self defense and that they transported them to the hospital immediately instead of leaving them out in the street. The Al Jazeera news team was later detained by order of the governor of Al Anbar for "suspicious activity."

Despite such roadblocks to progress, along with an average daily temperature of 110 degrees with occasional upward climbs to the mid-120s, the regiment continues to show signs of progress and effectiveness, Davis pointed out.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, which is attached to the regiment during this deployment, has found nearly a thousand missiles so far in a huge weapons cache spanning 16 square kilometers. The weapons find includes 260 Roland missiles, 40 Milan missiles and 660 shoulder-held, surface-to-air missiles, plus numerous other munitions so far.

In addition, the first class of the new Iraqi police force has graduated and a new class has begun. Highway patrolmen and security guards are also being trained up, going "right seat ride" with 3d ACR troops.

The 122nd Engineer Battalion has done yeoman's work, repairing area schools, building playgrounds and soccer fields for children and repairing roadways as well as making numerous base improvements at Rifles Base in Ar Ramadi.

According to 3d ACR roll up reports, the regiment has had 186 patrols, netted 56 detainees and found literally thousands of munitions since Operation Iron Grip began July 12.



Relaxing at Rifles

Story and photos by Spc. Justin A. Carmack

RIFLES BASE, Iraq--No matter if, it is six months or one year, the time a soldier spends in Iraq will undoubtedly seem like an eternity. This brings the question, what can a person do to make their time go faster? Soldiers from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment and its supporting elements have found activities to make their days and nights in country seem as pleasant as possible.

Soldiers here at Rifles Base enjoy a variety of amenities that others soldiers in the area may not have access to. In the Rotunda of the main building at Rifles Base, American Forces Television plays on a large-screen television twenty-four hours a day.

Though it may be a sacrifice to wait in a long line, internet access is also available.

Many soldiers here also have access to laptop computers. To some the laptop symbolizes paperwork and long hours in the office. For others, however, the laptop computer offers hours of enjoyment. The variety of games and movies one can view increases drastically when a soldier has access to a computer with the ability to play DVDs.



Music--Spc. Nicholas Ramey of the 350th MPAD relaxes by playing his guitar.

"I watch movies on my laptop," said Pfc. Raymond Wade of the 16th Signal Brigade. "After I watch the movies a couple of times I'll get bored with it too."

The use of videogame systems is yet another modern technology, which soldiers during this war have used to burn away time. Among the favorite game systems, here on Rifles Base is the Play Station II. This game system has the added bonus that it can also play DVDs, thereby increasing its ability to entertain.

Soldiers that opt for a more cultured way to spend their time may choose to read books or play musical instruments.

"Books are great because they are easy to take anywhere," said Spc. Nicholas Ramey of the 350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment "Playing my guitar is what I really like though."



Highlights--A soldier from the 3d ACR watches the baseball highlights after a long day of work.

Others that do not have access to fancy gadgets such as guitars, game systems and computers have to go back to more traditional ways of occupying their time such as board games and cards. The number of card games is unlimited, but the consensus here on post seems to be that Spades is the game to play. But even board games with friends can get old after a while.

"If I get bored with playing games," said Wade. "I'll just concentrate on getting more sleep."

?

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Where is the biblical city of Babylon located?

Last weeks answer:

While life for soldiers in Vietnam was rough, according to Ned and Uncle Jimbo from television's South Park cartoon, the log ride at Da'nang made things a little more bearable.

Office of the 70th Colonel

July 25, 2003

Troopers and Families of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment:

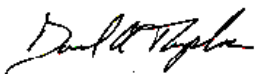
We are nearing the end of July and the Regiment has been in the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) for four months. Over three of those months have been in the country of Iraq. The Regiment serves heroically in a region where anti-Coalition forces still exist. The people of Iraq are grateful that we have destroyed the former regime, and they are appreciative of the efforts of the Coalition to secure the country and enable the Iraqi people to freely go on with their lives.

Many reports recently indicate that the Regiment will redeploy in October of this year. Those reports are misleading. There is a possibility that the Regiment will be relieved of conducting operations in our current location. This relief could happen in late October or early November. If the relief does happen, the most likely scenario for the Regiment is that we would be used as a reserve for the CENTCOM AOR. The timeline the Regiment would be utilized as a reserve is dependent on two variables. One variable is the introduction of other multi-national forces into the current Coalition. The other variable is the availability of other United States forces to serve in the CENTCOM AOR. Both scenarios indicate that the Regiment will redeploy in March or April of 2004.

The families and friends of the Regiment have followed the news and know the important tasks accomplished by the Troopers in the 3d Cavalry. We are involved in operations everyday here in Iraq. All of our formations are seasoned and experienced fighters and will continue to meet the challenges and accomplish all the missions assigned to us.

I also acknowledge the great sacrifices that our Families make everyday. There are not words to express the gratitude I hold for your devotion to your Trooper, for your service to our Nation, and for the daily prayers you offer for the Regiment. God bless you all.

DAVID A. TEEPLES



70th Colonel of the Regiment

SPORTS UPDATES

Winston Cup Standings 25, July 2003

Rank	Drivers	Points	Races	Wins
1	Matt Kenseth	2848	19	1
2	Jeff Gordon	2614	19	1
3	Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2575	19	3
4	Bobby Labonte	2472	19	1
5	Jimmie Johnson	2429	19	3
6	Michael Waltrip	2373	19	1
7	Kevin Harvick	2316	19	0
8	Kurt Busch	2243	19	3
9	Tony Stewart	2226	19	1
10	Jeff Burton	2200	19	1
11	Rusty Wallace	2198	19	0
12	Mark Martin	2179	19	0
13	Ryan Newman	2178	19	3
14	Robby Gordon	2178	19	2
15	Sterling Marlin	2144	19	0
16	Terry Labonte	2131	19	0
17	Ricky Craven	2019	19	1
18	Elliott Sadler	1993	19	0
19	Bill Elliott	1972	19	0
20	Greg Biffle	1944	18	1

Armstrong keeps overall lead; Knaben takes first Tour win

BORDEAUX, France (AP) -- Lance Armstrong stayed safe and on top of the overall standings through the 17th stage of the Tour de France.

Armstrong and archrival Jan Ullrich finished grouped together in Thursday's 112-mile, hill-less stage but their sights are already set on Saturday's individual time trial when they'll both race against the clock. That stage is expected to decide the winner of cycling's most prestigious race.

Armstrong, the four-time champion pursuing Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five successive wins, placed 28th, just behind Ullrich, in 27th. They finished in the same time, 8 minutes

and 6 seconds behind Knaben, meaning Armstrong preserved his lead

with just three days of racing to go.

Ullrich, a silver medalist in the event at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, is hoping for a repeat of his crushing defeat of Armstrong in a time trial last Friday, when he bit a whooping 96 seconds off Armstrong's overall lead, setting the stage for a grippingly close final week in the three-week 2,125-mile clockwise slog around France.

"I want to win this Tour. I have never been so close to Armstrong. I feel how my top form is coming," Ullrich, runner-up to Armstrong in 2000 and 2001, said in a posting on his Web site this week.

On Friday, the Tour ventures off on another flat stage from Bordeaux, where Armstrong's aim is again expected to be keeping fresh and uninjured for Saturday's clash with Ullrich.

The Back Page...

Opponent guns down councilor

NEW YORK -- A councilman who had crusaded against urban violence was shot to death inside City Hall yesterday by a political opponent who evaded metal detectors by walking into the building with his victim.

A police officer shot and killed the gunman as he was shooting at Brooklyn Councilman James E. Davis on the balcony overlooking the council chambers.

Davis, 41, a former police officer, was carrying a concealed 9mm handgun, but police officials said he never had a chance to draw his own weapon during the 2 p.m. attack.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the gunman, Othneil Boaz Askew, 31, had filed papers to run against Davis to represent the Fort Greene and Crown Heights neighborhoods of Brooklyn. Local news reports said that Askew had recently been told he would not be on the September ballot because of a filing error. Bloomberg said that video surveillance tapes showed the two men conversing both inside and outside City Hall before the shooting.

"It's clear that Mr. Askew came in as the guest of James Davis and got around the magnetometer with James Davis," Bloomberg said.

Bloomberg said he and councilors routinely bypassed the metal detectors, a practice the mayor vowed would end immediately.

In New York, witnesses described a chaotic scene inside the council chambers as the gunman stood up in the balcony and fired shots with a .40-caliber Smith and Wesson handgun into Davis as he lay sprawled on the balcony floor.

"A New York City police officer assigned to City Hall was down on the main floor as the shooting took place," said Police

Commissioner Raymond Kelly. "He drew his weapon and fired six shots up at Askew."

Davis, who lived with his mother in Brooklyn, began his police career as a correctional officer at Riker's Island in 1983. He founded "Love Yourself Stop the Violence," a nonprofit group promoting urban nonviolence in 1991. In 1994, the group convinced Toys "R" Us to stop selling toy guns that resembled assault weapons.

"The ironies here are just horrible," said James Spencer, a Boston political consultant who was helping Davis with his reelection campaign. "James spent his entire life fighting urban violence."

Iranians Confirm Al Qaeda Arrests

TEHRAN, July 23 -- Iran acknowledged today that it was holding some senior members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network but did not identify them.

The admission came two days after President Bush accused Iran of harboring and assisting terrorists.

"Since the collapse of the Taliban regime, we have arrested a large number of al Qaeda members," Iran's intelligence minister, Ali

Yunesi, told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting. "Many of them have been expelled, and a large number of them are in our custody -- a mixture of big and small members."

It was the first public admission by a top government official that Iran was holding key members of al Qaeda, which the United States holds responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and the Pentagon.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said that he was unable to confirm Yunesi's information and that the United States was "not exactly sure" what the Iranians meant by the term "custody."

But McClellan said Iran's statement appeared to confirm "what we believe to be

a significant al Qaeda presence in Iran." Iran has flatly denied harboring al Qaeda members.

"As soon as we get any information about those linked to al Qaeda or its members, we immediately start our intelligence activities and arrest them," Yunesi said.

"We are ready to hand over those al Qaeda members with whose countries we have friendly ties," the official IRNA news agency quoted him as saying.

Colorado Springs bank robbed twice in less than a week

COLORADO SPRINGS - A downtown bank has been robbed twice in the past week, apparently by the same man, police said. Two men held up Peoples National Bank last Thursday, and one of them apparently robbed it again Tuesday, police said.

After bank robberies, "a common question is, 'Are they going to come back?'" Our standard answer is, "I've never seen it," Detective Rita Gysin said Wednesday.

Both robberies occurred about 1 p.m. by men claiming to have a bomb. Bank employees told police that the robbers used the

same duffel bag to carry their loot.

"The time, location, same basic description and same (methods) would indicate it's the same guys," Gysin said. In Tuesday's robbery, a heavyset man with a goatee and wearing a tan fishing hat told a teller that he had a bomb and demanded money, Gysin said.

In the robbery last week, one man stopped at a counter while the other approached a teller, demanded money, and said he had a bomb, police said.

Desert Rifles is published by the 350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment under the guidance of the Regimental Commander, Regimental Public Affairs Officer and editorial staff. *Desert Rifles* does not represent the opinion of V Corps, US Central Command or the Department of the Army. To contact *Desert Rifles*, send questions or comments to:

3rd ACR PAO
Operation Iraqi Freedom
APO AE 09320-1507

Regimental Commander
Col. David A. Teeple

Regimental Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Michael Calvert

Staff Publishing Editors
Capt. Michael Calvert
Sgt. 1st Class Keith O'Donnell

Editor/Layout
Cpl. Joe Niesen

Staff Reporter
Spc. Justin Carmack